

Claims:

1. A method of processing transaction data relating to trade marks via at least one computer entity, said method comprising the steps of:

5 displaying country data describing at least one country in which a trade mark application may be filed;

displaying classification data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different categories;

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displaying price data relating to at least one transaction price for performing a service in relation to a said trade mark.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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selectively inputting individual items of said classification data at a user interface of a said computer entity;

inputting trade mark data describing a trade mark, at a user interface of a
20 said computer entity;

inputting applicant data specifying an applicant of a said trade mark at a user interface of a said computer entity;

25 entering financial data describing an account number of a customer at a user interface of a said computer entity; and

generating a confirmation message confirming said mark data, classification data, applicant data, and price data.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

-28-

sending said confirmation message between a plurality of individual said computer entities.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a said computer entity
5 comprises a server computer entity and another said computer entity comprises a client terminal computer entity, said method further comprising the steps of:

said server computer entity transmitting said mark data, classification data,
price data, applicant data and finance data to a receiving client terminal.
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5. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

filtering said mark data, classification data, price data and applicant data for
storage in a database maintained at a said computer entity.
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6. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting said mark data, classification data, applicant data to a receiving
computer entity of an official trade marks office as an electronic message.
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7. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving an electronic filing receipt from a computer entity of an official
trade marks office, said electronic filing receipt comprising data selected from the
25 set:

application number data;

filing date data;

30

applicant data;

priority claim data;

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said classification data is presented as a plurality of distinct icons, each icon relating to a corresponding
5 respective class of goods/services.

9. The method of processing transaction data relating to trade marks via a system of computer entities, said method comprising the steps of:

10 displaying country data describing at least one country in which a trade mark application may be filed;

displaying classification data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different categories;

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displaying price data relating to at least one transaction price for performing a service in relation to a said trade mark;

selectively inputting individual items of said classification data at a user
20 interface of a said computer entity;

inputting trade mark data describing a trade mark, at a user interface of a said computer entity;

25 inputting applicant data specifying an applicant of a said trade mark at a user interface of a said computer entity;

entering financial data describing an account number of a customer at a user interface of a said computer entity;

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generating a confirmation message confirming said mark data, classification data, applicant data, and price data;

sending said confirmation message between individual said computer entities

5 10. The method as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

a said server computer entity being a server computer entity transmitting said mark data, classification data, price data, applicant data and finance data to a receiving client terminal.

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11. The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

filtering said mark data, classification data, price data and applicant data for storage in a database maintained at a said computer entity.

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12. The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

transmitting said mark data, classification data, applicant data to a receiving computer entity of an official trade marks office as an electronic message from a said computer entity.

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13. The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

receiving an electronic filing receipt from a computer entity of an official trade marks office, said electronic filing receipt comprising data selected from the set:

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application number data;

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filing date data;

applicant data;

priority claim data;

14. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said classification data
5 is presented as a plurality of distinct icons, each icon relating to a corresponding
respective class of goods/services.

15. A computer entity configured for generating a trade mark
application order form display, and configured for receiving customer instruction
10 data input, said customer instruction data relating to the filing of a trade mark
application, said computer entity comprising:

at least one processor;

15 at least one communications means;

memory storage means storing at least one database, a countries
database, storing a country data describing a list of countries;

20 a goods/services database containing a list of goods and services arranged
according to at least one classification system;

a cost database comprising a list of costs associated with filing a registered
trade mark application in each of a plurality of said countries.

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16. The computer entity as claimed in claim 15, comprising:

a web server configured to display a said order form web page;

30 wherein said web server operates to:

-33-

whether an official trade mark examination procedure is followed in said country;

whether an official opposition procedure is followed in said country;

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a period for an official opposition procedure in said country;

whether legalisation of documents in connection with a trade mark application is required in said country;

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whether notarisation of documents in connection with a trade mark application is required in said country.

18. A client terminal computer entity capable of receiving a customer instruction data instructing filing of a registered trade mark application, said client terminal computer entity comprising:

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at least one processor;

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at least one data processor;

at least one communication means;

a memory means

25

at least one database; and

a transaction processor means; wherein said client terminal computer entity is configured to receive a customer instruction data message comprising:

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data describing a country in which a trade mark application is to be filed;

data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of different classification categories; and

5 data describing a trade mark.

19. The client terminal as claimed in claim 18, configured to receive a customer instruction data message comprising:

10 data describing an applicant for said registered trade mark application;

data describing financial details of a customer including account number data and customer name data; wherein

15 said client terminal computer entity operates to:

store said trade mark data and applicant data in an internet database;

20 send said finance data via said communication means to a third party computer entity;

receive a finance confirmation signal confirming that a customer's financial details are valid for a specified cost amount; and

25 if said valid customer finance details are received, generate a trade mark application instruction data for instruction of filing a registered trade mark application at a trade mark office.

30 20. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further configured to:

-35-

send trade mark application instruction data for instructing a registered trade mark application to a government office computer entity electronically.

21. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further configured to:

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send trade mark application instruction data for instructing a registered trade mark application to a third party subcontractor computer entity.

10 22. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a user interface having a visual display device and a keyboard data entry means, said user interface allowing a human user to monitor and inspect trade mark application instruction data for instructing a registered trade mark application and said customer instruction data.

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23. The client terminal computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further configured to:

20 send a search instruction data to an external third party engine computer entity.

24. The computer entity as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

25 a search engine for performing a trade mark search.

26. A computer entity configured for displaying a trade mark application order form display, and configured for receiving customer instruction data input at a remote location, said customer instruction data relating to the filing of a trade
30 mark application, said computer entity comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one communications means;

memory storage means storing at least one database, a countries
5 database, storing a country data describing a list of countries;

a goods/services database containing a list of goods and services arranged
according to at least one classification system;

10 a cost database comprising a list of costs associated with filing a registered
trade mark application in each of a plurality of said countries;

a web server configured to display a said order form web page;

15 wherein said web server operates to:

display country data comprising a list of a plurality of individual countries;

display cost data describing a cost of filing a registered trade mark
20 application in at least one of said countries;

display list of goods and services arranged according to a plurality of
classes according to a classification system;

25 input data describing at least one said country;

input data describing a list of goods/services according to said displayed
goods/services;

30 input data describing a trade mark;

-37-

compile said country data, goods/services data, and mark data into a data file; and

transmit said data file via said communications means.

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27. A client terminal computer entity capable of receiving a customer instruction data instructing filing of a registered trade mark application, said client terminal computer entity comprising:

10 at least one processor;

at least one data processor;

at least one communication means;

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a memory means

at least one database;

20 a transaction processor means; wherein

said client terminal computer entity is configured to;

receive a customer instruction data message comprising:

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data describing a country in which a trade mark application is to be filed;

data describing a list of goods and services classified into a plurality of
30 different classification categories;

data describing a trade mark;

data describing an applicant for said registered trade mark application;

data describing financial details of a customer including account number
5 data and customer name data; wherein

said client terminal computer entity operates to store said trade mark data
and applicant data in an internet database;

10 send said finance data via said communication means to a third party
computer entity;

receive a finance confirmation signal confirming that a customer's financial
details are valid for a specified cost amount;

15 if said valid customer finance details are received, generating a trade mark
application instruction data for instruction of filing a registered trade mark
application at a trade mark office.

20 27. An internet based service system comprising:

a host server computer apparatus; and

25 communication means, said communication means being configurable to
allow communication between said host server computer apparatus and a
plurality of logical entities,

whereby in use said service system allows a user to file a plurality of trade
mark applications at a plurality of international offices and/or said service system
30 provides said user with the facility to conduct a trade mark search,

wherein said service system further comprises:

a suitable user interface,

5 said filing of said trade mark application being undertaken by a sub contractor.

28. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said logical entities comprise a customer terminal, a host server, an internet service provider, a sub contractor terminal, a government or intergovernmental office server and a finance company server.

29. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said communication means comprise an ISDN and/or a virtual private network and/or the internet and/or wireless links.

30. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said host server computer apparatus comprises a transaction processing engine, an operating system, a memory facility, a processor, a plurality of disc drives, a plurality of ports and a plurality of software.

31. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of interactive internet web pages, said web pages being configurable to allow said user to interact with a plurality of boxes and/or drop down menus.

32. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said sub contractor is a firm of trade mark agents or a firm of lawyers, or a trade mark agency or a trade mark agent or a trade mark attorney or a lawyer or a trade mark lawyer.

33. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said international offices comprise a government or intergovernmental trade mark

-41-

a country;

an international treaty;

5 cost;

applicant name;

applicant address;

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customer name;

customer address;

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credit card number;

expiry date; and

type of card.

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38. A method of instructing the filing of trade mark applications using an internet based service system, said service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface, said method of filing of said trade mark application comprising the steps of:

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receive transaction data;

transaction data to recover mark data, applicant data and, finance data;

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view data on display;

store mark data and applicant data or;

forward finance data to finance server and/or;

check confirmation signal from finance server;

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forward mark data to search engine;

receive search results and check;

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forward mark data and, applicant data to government office or agent server;

receive confirmation of order from government office server or agent server;

generate secondary confirmation signal to customer.

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39. An internet based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus;

communication means and;

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a suitable user interface;

said user interface comprising a home page, information pages and, an order form.

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40. An internet based service system as claimed in claim 39 wherein, said user interface comprises menus, said menus being configurable whereby in use a user may select an item from said menu, said item thereby being a constituent of a trade mark application.

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41. A method of instructing the filing of trade mark applications using an internet based service system, said service system comprising a host server

-43-

computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface, said method of filing of said trade mark application comprising the steps of:

input mark;

specifying country or body; said body being an international treaty;

where a country or CTM are specified, said user selects filing or filing and registration;

whereby said user selects Madrid at specify country or body step, said user thereby selects countries;

said service system, via said user interface, prompts said user to specify goods/services at choose goods and services step; whereby there is provided on said user interface means to enter additional words for each class;

said user may then specify another class in addition to previous selections at stop choose goods/services;

where no more classes are required by said user, said user must confirm order at confirm order step or alternatively proceed to edit previous selections;

where order is confirmed, said user is the recipient of an email, said email thereby confirming said order, at email confirm order step;

whereby on receipt of said email said user's account is debited at debit account step;

where method of payment by said user is via direct debit by other payment means a sub contractor will proceed to file said application;

-44-

said sub contractor thereby emailing details of application.

42. An internet based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and, a suitable user interface
5 whereby said service system allows a user to instruct the filing of trade mark applications;

whereby said user interface provides a user with the facility to enter data relating to a trade mark comprising a constituent of said trade mark applications.
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43. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

15 whereby said user interface is configured with a plurality of menus said menus displaying country data whereby said user selects said country from said menu, said country being the country in which a trade mark application will be filed;

20 said user interface further providing said user with the facility to indicate whether said trade mark application will be filed under an international treaty;

said international treaty being a protocol relating to the Madrid agreement concerning the international registration of marks;

25 said international treaty further being community trademark regulation.

44. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means and, a suitable user interface
30 whereby said service system allows a user file a trade mark application;

-45-

whereby a user may select the filing of said trade mark application under the Madrid protocol;

said user interface comprising a plurality of menus;

5

whereby said user selects at least one country in which a Madrid Protocol trade mark application may be filed.

45. An internet-based service system comprising a host server
10 computer apparatus, communication means, and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

whereby said user interface allows said user to either:

15 file said trade mark application only or;

file said trade mark application together with payment of registration fees and/or;

20 instruct a search of suitable trade mark databases.

46. An internet-based service system comprising a host server
computer apparatus, communication means and, a suitable user interface
whereby said service system allows a user to instruct the filing of a trade mark
25 application whereby said user interface allows said user to specify the goods/services where said goods/services form a constituent of said trade mark application;

whereby said user specifies said goods/services from a dropdown menu; or

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whereby said user specifies goods/services using a check box;

-46-

said user interface further comprising the facility by which said user may enter data, said data further describing the classification of goods/services.

47. An internet-based service system comprising a host server
5 computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface
whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

whereby said user interface is configured to provide a user with the facility
to enter data relating to a priority claim;

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said data of priority claim comprising:

trade mark;

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filing date;

application number;

specification of goods/services;

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said data of said priority claim being entered by said user via a plurality of
suitable menus and/or a facility whereby said user may input data.

48. An internet-based service system comprising a host server
25 computer apparatus, communications means and a suitable user interface
whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

whereby said user interface provides a user with the facility to specify
details of an applicant; said details of said applicant comprising:

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name;

-47-

postal address;

country;

5 postcode;

email address;

telephone number;

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fax number;

said details of said applicant being entered by said user using a plurality of
suitable menus and/or;

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via a suitable data entry means;

said user interface being further configured to allow said user to indicate
whether said applicant is resident in an EC or non-EC country.

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49. An internet-based service system comprising a cost server
computer apparatus, communication means and a suitable user interface
whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

25 whereby said user interface provides said user with the facility to enter
payment details;

said payment details comprising:

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credit card number;

card type;

expiry date;

issue number;

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name of cardholder;

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said payment details for said trade mark application by said user being entered via said user interface using a plurality of a suitable menu and/or data entry means;

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said user interface being further configured to indicate whether said payment of said trade mark application is by way of credit card transaction or check.

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50. An internet-based service system comprising a host server computer apparatus, communication means, and a suitable user interface whereby said service system allows a user to file a trade mark application;

whereby said service system processes transaction data relating to said filing of said trade mark application;

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said service system thereby outputting, via said user interface, substantially all of said application details;

said user thereby being given the option of reviewing said application details so as to either confirm said details of said application or edit said details of said application;

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said application details selected from the set:

trade mark;

country or treaty;

Madrid countries;

5

priority marks;

filing date of priority mark;

10

application number of priority mark;

specification of goods/services of priority mark;

specification of goods/services;

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filing;

filing and registration;

20

search;

applicant name;

applicant address;

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applicant postcode;

applicant email address;

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applicant telephone number;

applicant fax number;

